COMPANION TOUR - 2015

7 days of luxury with a combination of hunting and safari. This tour is for the individual who would like more than just the hunting experience and wishes to bring a companion (a non-hunter).

Arrival Day:

We begin with a guided tour of the South African capital, Pretoria, also called Jacaranda City in our air-conditioned mini bus. We start at one of the country’s most significant attractions, the Voortrekker Monument. Created as an homage to the approx. 14,000 pioneers (Voortrekkers) who between 1835 and 1854 trekked from the southern Cape area to a formerly, mostly unexplored southern Africa. While moving along the impressive and unique marble Historical Frieze, our guides will give you a comprehensive historical account of the colonization of South Africa, and the impact it had on the territory’s indigenous population. Afterwards we take a tour of the historical city Pretoria in our mini bus, and we end the morning passing the Union Buildings where Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as President of South Africa on May 10th 1994.
Mid-afternoon we will arrive at our Private Reserve and after a refreshing welcome drink, you will have the opportunity to explore your luxurious accommodations. After lunch our General Manager will give you a short briefing. We also recommend that you read the ‘hotel book’ which can be found in your rooms. The rest of the afternoon is for relaxation.

In the evening we will serve a reception dinner, followed by a tour of our museum with full-mounted African wildlife and a visit to the stunning wine cellar. This evening you will also be introduced to your PH (Professional Hunter), whom will be your personal hunting guide for the next days to come.

PS: Due to meal planning, transport, etc. for each upcoming day, it is extremely important that the companion every previous evening informs the guide what their plans are for the following day.

**Day 2 - (hunter’s and companion’s program):**

The hunters have an early wakeup call. Following a solid English breakfast, we drive to the shooting range. After you have shoot a few practice rounds and adjusted your rifle you will go out hunting 1:1 for the entire day. The hunt will be conducted in our concession areas outside of our Private Reserve and dependent on the driving distance, you will either have lunch at home in the lodge or have lunch in the bush. Consider inviting your companion to join you on your hunt. It is a truly extraordinary experience to hunt in the glorious African nature, something you will be able to enjoy with one another.

Companions may join the hunters as an observer/photographer, relax back at the lodge or join an afternoon viewing safari at our Private Reserve. In the early evening, all hunters should be back at the lodge where hunting stories are most likely to be shared while having a refreshing beverage in the bar or by the boma/fireplace. Dinner will usually be served around 8pm (dependent on the hunters varying return) and the chef will make sure, you will have a taste of some wonderfully prepared game meat in the menu.

**Day 3 - (hunter’s and companion’s program):**
The hunters will be hunting 1:1 all day.

Companions may join the hunters as an observer/photographer, relax back at the lodge or join today’s thrilling excursion to Shingwedzi Wildlife Center (extra charge: US $ 125, - per person). The excursion lasts for 6-7 hours and is a guided tour, where we meet several of Africa’s feline carnivores and raptors up close. On our way home we visit a typical African curio shop with plenty of needlework, arts and crafts and an enormous selection of souvenirs.

In the evening you have the option of attending another excursion, Tribal Evening (extra charge: US $ 55, - per person). This is an extraordinary chance to ensure that you gain some historical insight into African culture and lifestyle in addition to a contemporary awareness. The evening is spent around the fireplace/boma in the torches glow, where we enjoy the spirited tribal dances, accompanied by music and songs from times past. We conclude the event with a traditional African dinner, prepared by our accomplished chefs.
**Day 4 - (hunter’s and companion’s program):**

The hunters will be hunting 1:1 all day.

Companions are offered a refreshing morning walking trail, steered by our expert field guides who will tell you about the area’s plants, trees, tracks, birds and insects. An exciting trek which covers the reserve, it is something you definitely should not miss. You will return to the lodge for a solid English breakfast around 9am.

In the afternoon the Land Cruiser will be ready for another safari. Once again, it will be exciting to hear what the hunters will be able to recount from today’s hunt, when we meet at the bar or around the boma/fireplace in the evening.

**Day 5 - (hunter’s and companion’s program):**

The hunters will be hunting 1:1 all day.

When the hunt is over, the paperwork for every hunt is finalized with your PH. All details regarding taxidermy and transport are decided and will be logged. Subsequently, you may distribute a gratuity to your PH and Tracker, in addition to saying farewell to your newly established hunting buddies.
Companions may go for a safari on the reserve in the morning, where every new impression can be perpetuated with a camera. The safari ends with a Bush-Brunch, at one of the reserves most breath-taking locations. This is an experience you should not miss. During the afternoon, your regular Elephant Lodge guide will take you for a trek along Giraffe Trail or Kudu Trail for a completely different way to come into contact with the African wildlife and nature.

**Day 6 - you have three options:**

**Option 1: Day of leisure, Safari and Sunset Rock**

In the morning, we will drive to the area where we have the trophy parade and photography. You will then have time for shopping in our well-assorted curio shop.

At approx. 1pm the chef will be ready with an exquisite lunch buffet. Following a couple of hours of relaxation, everyone will go on one last safari within our Private Reserve. We end our safari at the extraordinary rock formation, Sunset Rock, with its fascinating and breath-taking view. You will be served lovely, chilled champagne while we say our goodbyes to the hunt and honorably send our regards to the African wildlife. This traditional ceremony is accompanied by the last sunrays stretching across the beautiful landscape. When the dark settles we ascend the Land Cruisers and return to Elephant Lodge where the bar is open and ready for all the hunters and their companions - all of whom can leave the African continent with memories to last a lifetime. Enjoy yet another marvelous dinner and a glass of wine on your last night at our Private Reserve.

**Option 2: ‘Big Five’ excursion**
An exhilarating all-day excursion (extra charge: US $ 139, - per person incl. lunch). While driving through picturesque mountain formations, we will make our way to Pilanesberg National Park.

We will drive in open vehicles through the 135,908 acre enormous National Park, which not only inhabits the ‘Big Five’ species (lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo) but also has one of the largest populations of endangered white rhino in the world.

Option 3: Additional hunting day

Even after five or six consecutive days of hunting, some may still be avid for another day of hunting.

Regardless if you choose the Big Five excursion or the additional hunting day, it should be possible to be back in time for the Sunset Rock excursion. However, this is Africa and unexpected things can happen, so no promises. Under any circumstances, the paperwork with the PH must be concluded.

Day 7 - (combined program):
Following an English breakfast, there is time for some last minute shopping in our curio shop and afterwards your account must be settled at our main office - invoices’ for beverages, curio shop items, trophy fees, taxidermy work, licenses and certificates, as well as any medals, ammunition, weapons rent, etc., if pertinent. Your luggage must be placed outside your room at 11am.

Use the remaining time for a stroll around the area, take your last photographs, relax by the pool, or anything else you would like to do. Succeeding a lovely lunch, we say farewell to our Private Reserve and its staff and drive to O.R. Tambo Airport for your flight home. Following check-in, you will have plenty of time to do some shopping in the many stores inside the airport.

We look forward to making sure that you and your family have an unforgettable African adventure with us at our Private Reserve, and we are always available if you need any more information. Be sure to ask your Booking Agent if you have any questions.